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Secret



Cease-Fire Developments

Secret

24

26 April 1973
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LAOS

Phoumi's Return

Phoumi Vongvichit, the ranking Lao Communist negotiator, arrived in Vientiane on 26 April after a brief stop in Hanoi. In his airport statement, Phoumi claimed he was ready to "strive for the rapid advance of the talks." Although the statement, as usual, condemned US bombing and government "nibbling attacks," it was generally restrained and did not blame Souvanna for the delay in talks.

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Phnom Penh is calm following the Communist rocket attack against Pochentong airport early on 26 April. Some 900 government troops are attempting to clear the east bank of the Mekong River opposite the capital, which was occupied by the Khmer Communists on 25 April. South of Phnom Penh, Cambodian units at Takeo attempted--unsuccessfully--to expand the town's northeastern defense perimeter on 25 April. Farther south, the Communists prevented the eastward movement of government forces from Kompot along Route 16 toward the Communist-occupied town of Kep.

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